

AUTHORIZING LEASE OR CONSTRUCTION OF HOSPITALS FOR CARE
AND TREATMENT OF BENEFICIARIES OF THE BUREAU OF WAR
RISK INSURANCE.

DECEMBER 18, 1920.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state
of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LANGLEY, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,
submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. Res. 411.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to which was referred the resolution (H. J. Res. 411) authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to enter into an agreement to lease hospitals acquired or to be constructed by the State of New York, or other States of the United States of America, for the care and treatment of beneficiaries of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, respectfully reports that it held hearings on such resolution, and hereby reports that it is in favor of the enactment of the same into law, with a committee amendment. In line 6, page 2, after the word "to," strike out the word "approval" and substitute the word "appropriation." The following is a copy of the proposed resolution as amended:

[H. J. Res. 411, Sixty-sixth Congress, third session.]

JOINT RESOLUTION Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to enter into an agreement to lease or to execute lease for hospitals acquired or to be constructed by the State of New York, or other State of the United States of America, for the care and treatment of beneficiaries of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance.

Whereas the State of New York has passed an act (chapter 958 of the laws of 1920, State of New York) authorizing the construction of a hospital for the care and treatment of 1,000 beneficiaries of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance suffering from mental and nervous disorders, and having appropriated therefor the sum of \$3,000,000 for the construction of such hospital, and has provided a site in the city of New York, Borough of Queens, upon which said hospital shall be constructed; and

Whereas there is urgent need for additional hospital facilities for the care and treatment of veterans of the World War who have suffered injury or contracted disease by reason of their active military or naval service: Therefore be it

Resolved, etc., That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the commission for military hospital of the State of New York, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 958 of the Laws of 1920, State of New York, to lease and thereafter to lease, in accordance with the provisions of said act, subject to

appropriation by the Congress of the United States, the hospital to be known as the New York Military Hospital to be constructed by said commission, when said hospital shall have been completed and ready for occupancy.

SEC. 2. That, subject to appropriations by the Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement to lease with the duly authorized representatives of any State of the United States of America where governmental hospital facilities are urgently needed or to execute a lease for a period not exceeding 10 years, and on such terms and conditions as he may deem proper, hospitals which have been acquired or constructed or may be acquired or constructed by such State for the purpose of providing additional hospital facilities for patients of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance.

The needs of the country for suitable hospitals owned or controlled by the Public Health Service for the treatment of tuberculosis and mental diseases of our ex-service men is well known. Many of these men are now receiving hospital care or treatment in places wholly unsuitable for that purpose. The Secretary of the Treasury has plenary authority under existing law to enter into a lease or leases for buildings for the care and treatment of ex-service patients; but the Secretary of the Treasury holds that such authority to lease extends only to buildings already constructed and does not give him the right to execute a lease for a building to be constructed in the future, and the purpose of this resolution is to grant him such authority.

The hearings before your committee include a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury reviewing the history of the negotiations for the construction of these hospitals by the States which contains a complete statement of the whole matter, including this New York project. It is not deemed necessary, in view of the completeness of that letter, to go into detail in this report. The printed hearings also contain a copy of the New York statute appropriating the money necessary for the construction of the hospital, as well as a copy of the agreement which it is proposed to enter into with the Secretary of the Treasury upon the enactment of this law. This agreement is already signed by the authorized commissioners of the State of New York, and the whole proceedings had are based upon an emergency for immediate and favorable action by Congress.

This legislation is favored by the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, the Director of the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, and the American Legion. The great need of hospitals to take care of the increasing number of ex-service men suffering from tubercular and neuro-psychiatric diseases is daily becoming more urgent, and it is hoped by your committee that this resolution may receive immediate and favorable consideration.